

## **ABSTRACT**

The invention employs a blower of the type used by commercial landscapers. The device has an engine mounted on a frame. Shoulder straps attached to the frame allow the user to wear the device on his back leaving the hands of the operator free to operate other tools such as a chain saw or perform other tasks. Also, wearing the device on the back makes it easier to transport the device over long distances to the source of the fire or backfire to be started.

The device's blower generates a stream of air at high speeds. This stream of air can be used to feed a fire when the air is directed at a fire. When used to extinguish a fire, air from the blower is tapped from a point 180 degrees removed from the blower output and mixed with exhaust from the engine. This mixture is diverted through a Y-shaped valve into the airstream coming out of the blower. When the device is used to start backfires a fire is started. The airstream, without the mixture of air and engine exhaust can be used to both encourage the propagation of the fire and direct the fire towards the main wild fire. The ability to quickly spread the backfire in the proper direction is imperative because a sudden change in wind direction or other weather conditions could cause the backfire to become as big a problem as the original fire.